

5 I claim:

1. A handheld mobile wireless monitoring apparatus comprising:

 a radio receiver for monitoring a wireless signal across at least one wireless
channel;

 a user interface for enabling a user to observe and select a predetermined
10 parameter of the wireless signal to be evaluated;

 a processing circuit for evaluating the wireless signal to observe the
predetermined parameter;

 an enclosure, dimensioned to be handheld by the user, for retaining the radio
receiver, the processing circuit and the user interface.

15 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the radio receiver is a wireless PC card for
monitoring wireless signals operating under the IEEE 802.11 protocols.

20 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the processing circuit comprises a
microprocessor.

 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the user interface comprises an LCD display for
displaying data about the at least one property of the wireless signal.

25 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the user interface comprises a keypad for
selecting the predetermined parameter of the wireless signal to be observed.

5 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the predetermined parameter of the wireless
signal to be evaluated is selected from at least one of: unit identification, SSID, WEP status, data
rate and transmission power strength.

7. A method of mobile monitoring comprising:

10 monitoring a wireless signal across at least one wireless channel;

 selecting a predetermined parameter of the wireless signal to be evaluated;

 evaluating the wireless signal to observe the predetermined parameter;

 observing the evaluated predetermined parameter of the wireless signal.

15 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the steps of monitoring, selecting, evaluating and
observing are performed at a first predetermined location, and wherein the method further
comprises performing the steps of monitoring, selecting, evaluating and observing at least a
second predetermined location, so as to observe the predetermined parameter over a
predetermined region comprised of the respective predetermined locations.

20 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the monitored wireless signals operate under the
IEEE 802.11 protocols.

25 10. The method of claim 7 wherein the predetermined parameter of the wireless signal
to be evaluated is selected from at least one of: unit identification, SSID, WEP status, data rate,
and transmission power strength.

- 5 11. The method of claim 7 wherein the predetermined parameter of the wireless signal to be evaluated is selected from at least one of: access point identification, client identification, quick statistics, signal strength, WLAN statistics, host and associations tabulations, packets information, security, signal direction, and device options